

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a first register;
a second register; and
a state machine connected to the first and second registers, ~~the state machine:~~
~~determines to determine~~ a maximum number of channels that can be received by an
interface connected to the system, ~~and stores store~~ the maximum number in the first
register, ~~determines determine~~ a current number of different channels that are being
sent to the interface, ~~and stores store~~ the current number in the second register[[]],
and ~~detects detect~~ a new channel message from a set top box connected to the
interface, the new channel message ~~indicating to indicate~~ a new subscribed-to
channel.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 1 wherein,~~ A system
comprising:
a first register;
a second register; and
a state machine connected to the first and second registers to determine a
maximum number of channels that can be received by an interface connected to the
system, store the maximum number in the first register, determine a current number
of different channels that are being sent to the interface, store the current number in
the second register, and detect a new channel message from a set top box connected
to the interface, the new channel message to indicate a new subscribed-to channel,
when the new channel message is detected, the state machine ~~determines to~~
determine if the maximum number is equal to the current number.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the state machine further determines whether the set top box is currently receiving a previously subscribed-to channel.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein, when the maximum number is equal to the current number, and the set top box is currently receiving the previously subscribed-to channel, the state machine stops a transmission of the previously subscribed-to channel.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the state machine outputs the new subscribed-to channel after the previously subscribed-to channel has been stopped.

6. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the set top box is a member of a group.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 wherein, when the maximum number is not equal to the current number, the state machine outputs a group specific query to the group.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the state machine outputs the new subscribed-to channel to the set top box after the group specific query has been output, but before a group specific query timer has expired.

9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the state machine outputs the new subscribed-to channel to the set top box after the group specific query has been output, and after a group specific query timer has expired.

10. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein, when the maximum number is equal to the current number, and the set top box is not currently receiving a subscribed-to channel, the state machine drops the new channel message.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a system connected to an interface, the system including a first register and a second register, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining a maximum number of channels that can be received by the interface, and storing the maximum number in the first register;

determining a current number of different channels that are being sent to the interface, and storing the current number in the second register; and

detecting a new channel message from a set top box connected to the interface, the new channel message indicating a new subscribed-to channel.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11 and further comprising the step of~~ A method of operating a system connected to an interface, the system including a first register and a second register, the method comprising:
determining a maximum number of channels that can be received by the interface, and storing the maximum number in the first register;
determining a current number of different channels that are being sent to the interface, and storing the current number in the second register; and
detecting a new channel message from a set top box connected to the interface, the new channel message indicating a new subscribed-to channel, when the new channel message is detected, determining if the maximum number is equal to the current number.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 and further comprising ~~the step of~~ determining whether the set top box is currently receiving a previously subscribed-to channel.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 and further comprising ~~the steps of~~:
when the maximum number is equal to the current number, and the set top box is currently receiving the previously subscribed-to channel,
stopping a transmission of the previously subscribed-to channel; and
outputting the new subscribed-to channel after the previously subscribed-to channel has been stopped.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the set top box is a member of a group, and further comprising ~~the step of~~, when the maximum number is not equal to the current number, outputting a group specific query to the group.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 and further comprising ~~the step of~~ outputting the new subscribed-to channel after the group specific query has been output, but before a group specific query timer has expired.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 and further comprising ~~the step of~~ outputting the new subscribed-to channel after the group specific query has been output, and after a group specific query timer has expired.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 and further comprising ~~the step of~~, when the maximum number is equal to the current number, and the set top box is not currently receiving a subscribed-to channel, dropping the channel message.

19. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the maximum number of channels represents a maximum number of channels that can be simultaneously received by the interface.

20. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the maximum number of channels represents a maximum number of channels that can be simultaneously received by the interface.